

April

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada

NEWS 2021



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

In This Issue

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From Library of Congress Digital Collections Johnston (Frances Benjamin) Collection

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/frances-benjamin-johnston/?fa=subject:lantern+slides&sp=1>

From Germain Lacasse

First of all, a sincere thank to Larry Cederblom and Arnie Marchand who answered my request about the first magic lantern show to native people in North America. Arnie got directly to the point when he supposed that such a show would have been “to entice... or to put fear” on the natives. Here is what I found up to now. I scanned the index of past issues of MLG and I found a text by Lindsay Lambert in the issue of June 2003 (Vol. 15, no 2, p 10-11). He mentioned the visit of four American natives to Queen Anne of England in 1710, with the purpose of fighting together against the French. The Queen was impressed, her guests probably as much(?) To show her goodwill before they fled back she gave each of them several gifts, including a magic lantern, as Lindsay Lambert reported. I found the book referred by Lambert (Queen Anne’s American Kings) and many other papers published later on this same topic, most of them confirming that this visit had been organized to intensify the relation between the

Crown and the Mohawks as a way to have them help fight the French in America. Few of them mention or insist about the magic lantern, but they all make clear that this and the other gifts were offered to impress the four chiefs and gain some loyalty from native people. So Arnie Marchand was exactly right about the main goals of such an event.



But all of this brings a lot of interesting new questions. To be able to use the magic lantern, they probably had a demonstration in London, but there is no mention of it despite the lot of information published at the time about their activities in this town. No more information is available about what happened to these lanterns in America. Did the chiefs make shows? If yes, when, where, why, etc.? If no, when, where, and why not, etc.? Native people history has mainly been transmitted through oral tradition; maybe some of the Mohawk communities know about that and could provide some information. If the chiefs saw a show in London, it could have been the first for a native American audience, but it was in England. If one or another among them showed the lantern after returning, that show

would have been the first for American natives in their own country. Maybe we will never know more than that, but it remains important and significative to know that natives might have been the first Americans to see a magic lantern, despite the fact that it was “to entice... or to put fear”. And maybe they were really impressed but certainly not as much subjugated as their English hosts thought they would be, and maybe that is why when they got back to America they chose not to use the gift as an impressive instrument. There is much more to know and discuss and analyse about this event and its circumstances and consequences. If more information comes, we hopefully can later provide a detailed and comprehensive narration and analyse and publish it in the MLG.

Once more, thanks to David Evans, Larry Cederblom, and most of all to Arnie Marchand and his very clever hypothesis, which points to contexts where more might be found and discussed.

Germain Lacasse.

Magic Lantern and Slides

From Ramon Ramos
ramosmayo@optonline.net

Hello

I have 45 colored magic lantern slides of Japan in very good condition and 8 black & white magic lantern slides of France and Italy. I also have a Bausch & Lomb 15 E.F. Model B Balopticon projector which needs cleaning and repair of the slide holder. I would like to donate these to a museum but I have had difficulty locating one.

I thought perhaps your organization might lead me in the right direction. Thanks.

Here are photos of the projector. It needs to be cleaned and refurbished. I don't have a variable transformer so I don't want to plug it in.

The plate on the projector states it is a Bausch & Lomb Model B "Balopticon" No. 49751 with a 15 E.F. projection lens. The leather strap is missing on the storage box.

I hate to just throw it away but I recognize it might be beyond repair. Thanks for your help.

Marilyn Ramos
203-373-1914



From David Evans

Hello Marilyn

Thank you for your enquiry. We have several members who are attached to museums, so I suggest we add your message to our next e-publication (April) and if any of them are interested, they could contact you directly. Do you have any pictures we could include? Where are you located?

Few things are beyond repair, and I have no doubt that someone would like it. Thank you for the images - they help identify it well. You are wise to not plug it in!

We will do our best to find you a suitable recipient.

David Evans

MORE

on article
from
March 2021 E-pub

SLIDES by W.T. ELSING



From Rob Boggs
crziaboutu2@yahoo.com

COUNTED
THEM total :113
slides attached is
a screen shot of
some of them.

Yes you can say
open to offers.

**I was still
wondering if any
of your members
have any info. on
W.T. ELSING.**

From the looks
of the slides
he was doing
a geographical
survey of Japan
there are so many
slides of elaborate
houses and
some were being
colorized.

They will come in a box imprinted with W.T.
ELINGS name, custom made to hold the slides.





Lantern Slides Book



From Cherie Munkres
cmunkres@gmail.com

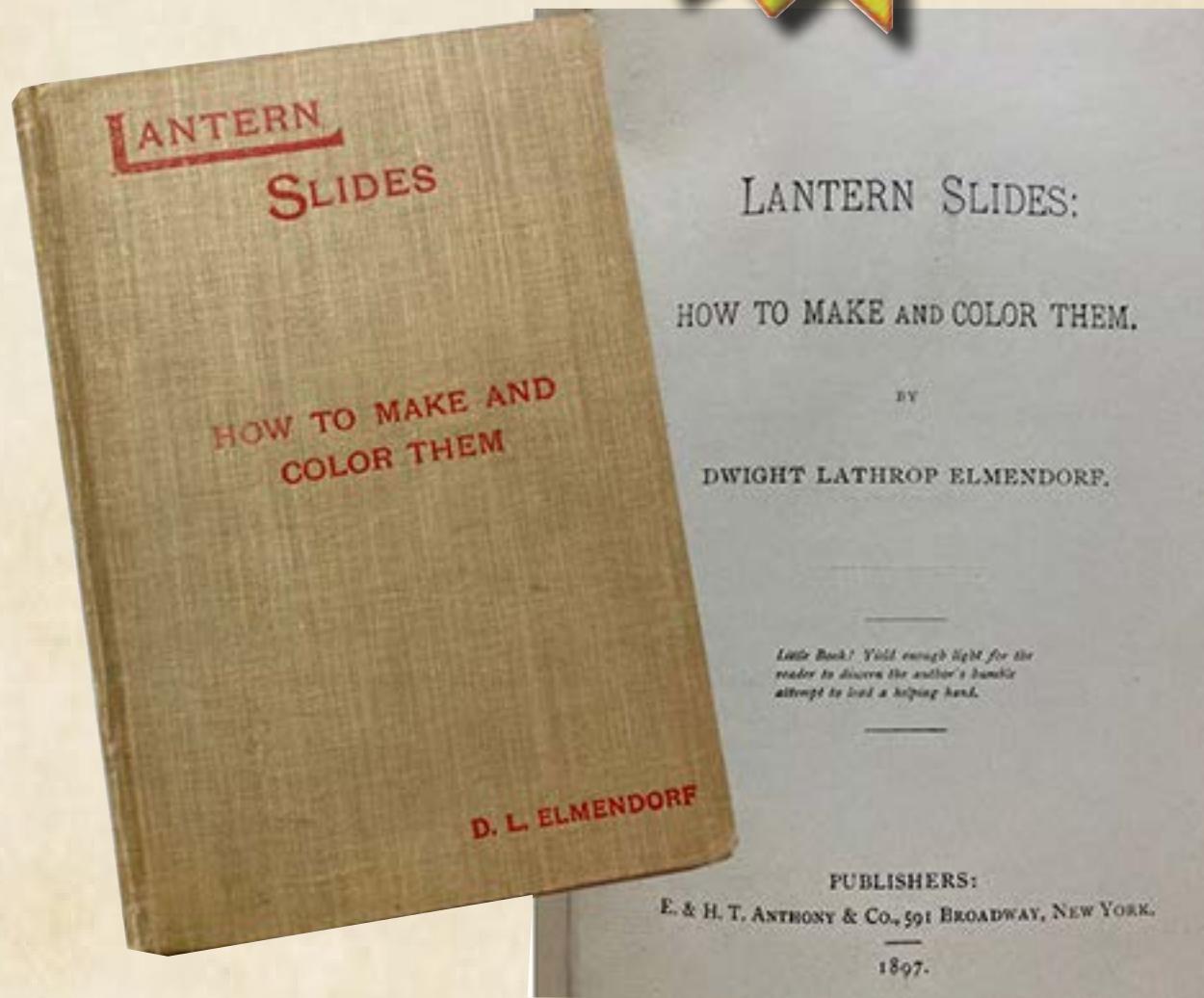
Secretary-Treasurer,
Magic Lantern Society,

Good day, this is Cherie Munkres.
This past summer while cleaning out
relative's possessions I came upon 2
magic lanterns that I donated to folks
in the society.

I recently came upon this scarce book
that I thought someone in your group
would be interested in.

For the last 20 years I have been
selling rare and unusual books. I am
asking \$35 plus \$6 postage in the US.
It is in excellent condition.
Please assist me in letting your
members know this book is available.
Thanks so much.

Cherie Munkres
cmunkres@gmail.com



From Ed Vermue
ed.vermue@oberlin.edu

We have in our collection of pre-cinematic media a wooden attachment for a magic lantern that contains a single, rotating paper disc with a painted film interior for projecting. It would fall into the general category of cinematograph perhaps, but it does not use a film strip. Instead it uses a disc. The wooden box does fit onto our magic lantern and came with its own lens.

The painted images occur in sequence so I suspect this was used as a form of early animation, although it is primitive. The "shutter" is simply a revolving half circle, and the whole piece is advanced by means of an external handle. I can't imagine turning the whole thing fast enough to achieve 16 frames a second, but mechanically it does behave like it wants to achieve real animation, briefly stopping for each frame.

I'd like to reach someone who can name and date this piece if that is a possibility. Cheers, ev



Links to view device [DSCN0015.AVI](#)
[DSCN0017.AVI](#)

Ed Vermue
Special Collections and Preservation
Librarian
Oberlin College Terrell Main Library
415 Mudd Center
148 West College St.
Oberlin, OH 44074-1545

From David Evans

Dear Ed

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your enquiry - have had to do a bit of research to find any information.

Your device is a variety of projecting phenakistiscope. Several makers made a range of versions of the device ranging from the simple wheel with a series of images and slits between

continued next page

Do You Take Questions continued

the images, where you hold the device on a handle facing a mirror and view through the slits, making a simple moving image, to sophisticated 'wheel of life' or choreutescope rotating magic lantern slides that could produce, say, a series of jumping skeletons. The Projecting Phenakistiscope first appeared around 1845 from Franz von Uchatius in Germany. It was built into a magic lantern rather than being an accessory. Around 1853 the French optician Duboscq improved the design. Bearing in mind your geographical location, I think yours best resembles the design of American O B Brown, who described his apparatus in 1869.

1499067461044900462-00093594
(storage.googleapis.com)

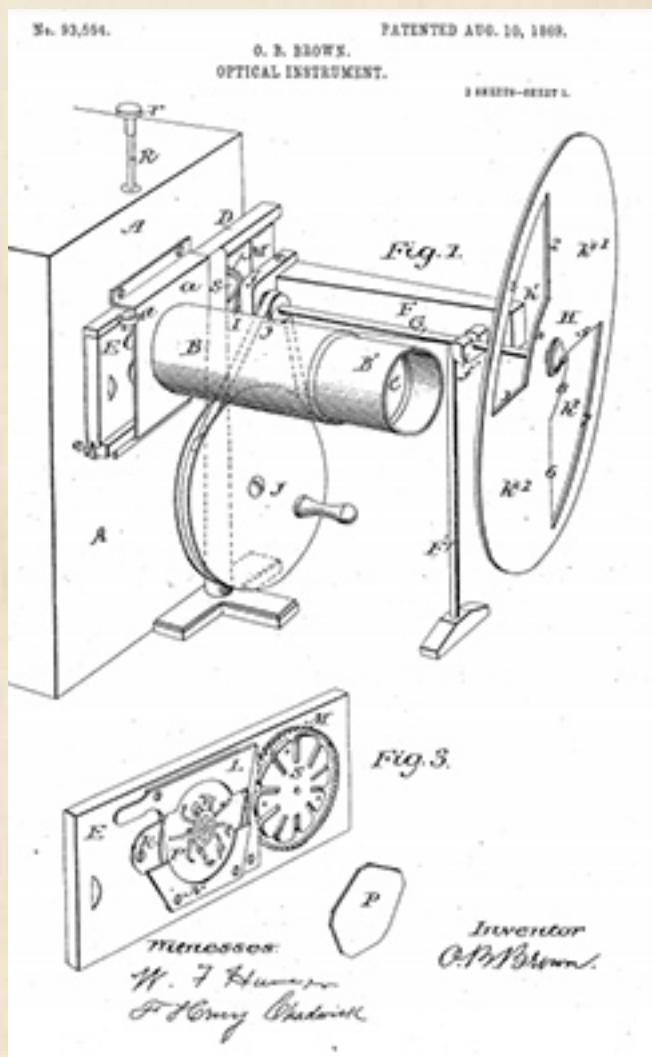
shows Brown's patent application.

For more information you could refer to the book *Optisches Spielzug* by Georg Fusslin, published by his company in Stuttgart in 1993 (in German) and Wikipedia online has quite a lot of information on the subject.

I hope this helps!

Regards

David Evans



AUCTION TEAM BREKER

The Specialists in »Technical Antiques«

Germany

“Lights... – Cameras... – Action!”
Auction Preview
23 –24 April 2021

This Spring Auction Team Breker of Cologne, Germany, will be hosting an exciting sale celebrating two hundred years of audio-visual technology. Vision – Photographica and Film Friday 23 April at 2:00 pm EST

In light of continuing restrictions, the auction will take place online alongside our usual full range of telephone and written bidding options. We are happy to provide detailed condition reports and private viewing by appointment. Auction Team Breker's next specialist sales are planned for Autumn 2021:

Photographica & Film:
closing date 15 August 2021.

Science, Technology & Toys:
closing date 15 August 2021.

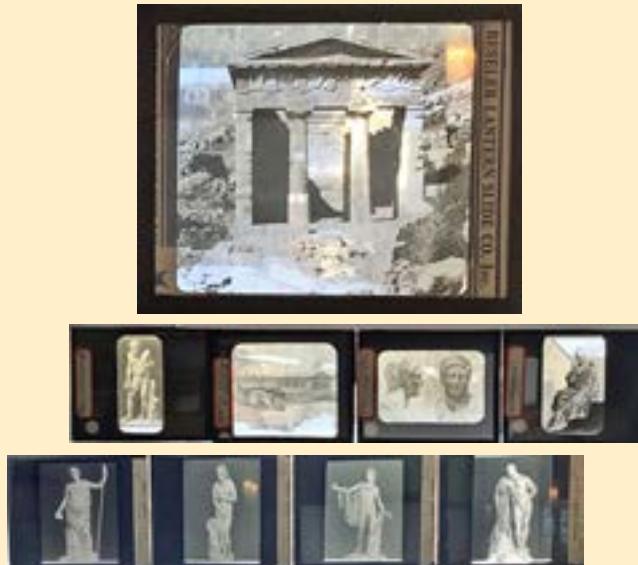
Please visit www.breker.com and www.youtube.com/auctionteambreker.

From Michael Bonnell
mkbonnell@hotmail.com

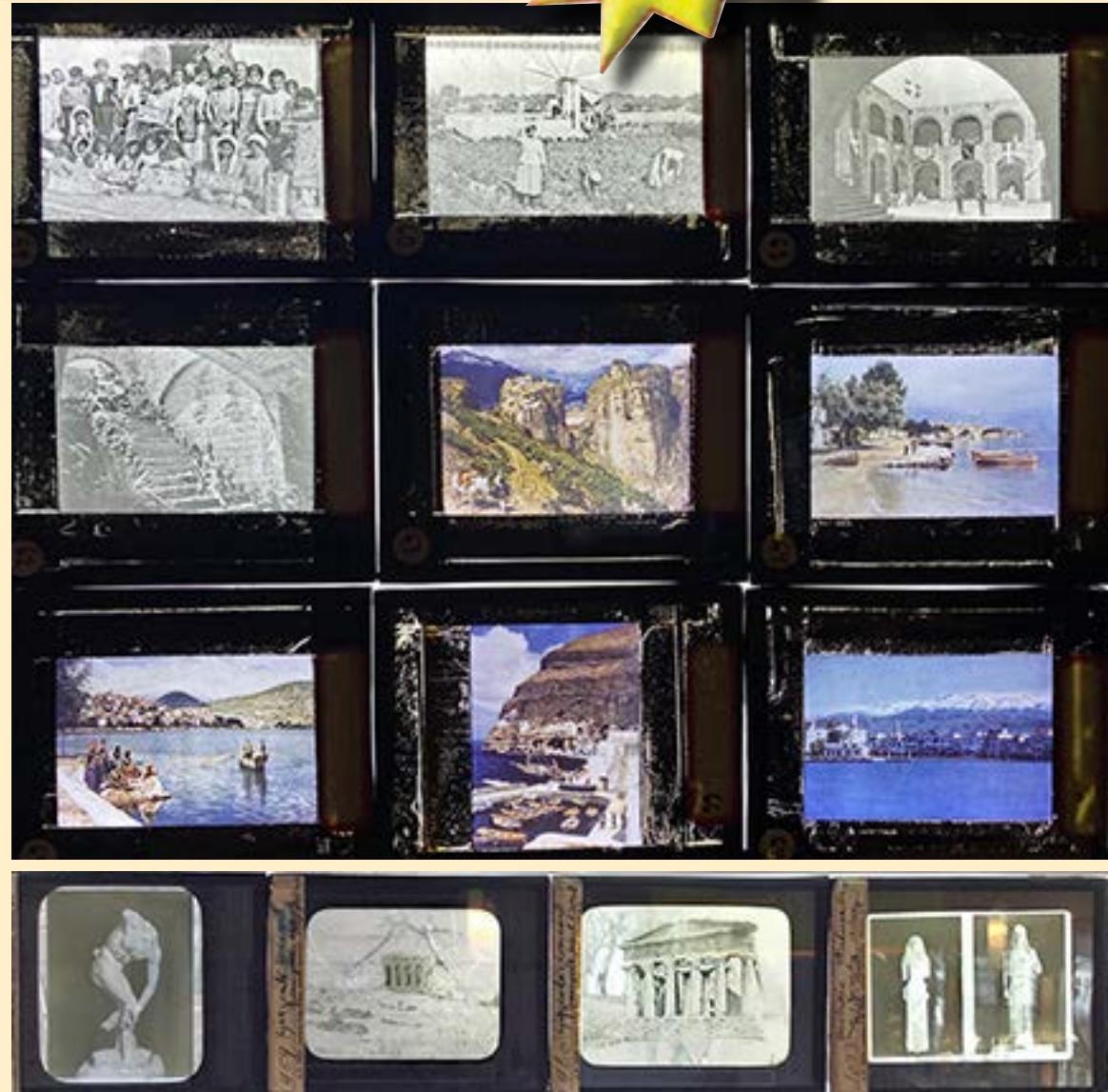
I have approximately 600 slides almost evenly divided between magic lantern and Realistic stereo glass slides for sale.

The magic lantern slides include the following, and are primarily of antiquities in Greece and Italy and the Mediterranean, and also what I call “day in the life” of ordinary people in those places. These are not tourist photos but professionally done. Some look like what would have been used in a college course on ancient history.

Fratelli Alinari Serie Artistica (27 slides) - antiquities
Troy Studio (64) - antiquities
Beseler (19) - antiquities
Red Sticker (no mfg name) (63) - antiquities
Unnamed (no mfg name) (56) - antiquities
“Day in the Life” (no mfg name) (71)



Magic Lantern and Realist Stereo Picture Slides



continued next page

Lantern Slides and Stereo Picture Slides continued



Also 300 Realist stereo picture slides in three green tin boxes with sliding lids.

The Realist photos may have been taken by tourists but they are very professional looking, ie., without people in them. All were taken between 1950-1952.

Realist Box #1 (90) - Death Valley, Bryce, Valley of Fire, Boulder Dam, Zion, Black Hills SD.
Realist Box #2 (70) - NYC, Boston, Maine, Niagara Falls, Hyde Park, Mt Vernon, Wash DC.
Realist Box #3 (102) - Yellowstone, Bear Tooth Mts, Volcanos, Devils Tower, Mesa Verde, Cliff Dwellers.

I have pretty good digital photos of the slides primarily taken on a light box and would be glad to send them your way if you are interested. Let me know. Thanks.



Michael Bonnell
812.322.7587
Mkbonnell@hotmail.com



From: Sue T
qsuzy2000@yahoo.com

Good Afternoon
I came across your site as I was trying to research my projector. I was hoping that someone might have some information about it. I would greatly appreciate it.
Thank you
Sue



Information On Magic Lantern



From David Evans

Good Afternoon Sue

Thank you for your enquiry. This is a French magic lantern by Demaria-Lapiere (their monogram logo is in your Picture 2). The Lapiere brothers (lantern manufacturers) amalgamated with the photographic manufacturer Jules Demaria in 1908. As it has an electric illuminant I would imagine it was made about 1930. I'm not sure when the business actually closed. You can see a similar lantern on the Luikerwaal.com web site here: https://www.luikerwaal.com/newframe_uk.htm?/fabrikanten_lo_uk.htm

I hope that helps, and if we can be of any further assistance, do let me know.

The only thing that comes to mind is that you would need a slide carrier to use it with

regular 3 1/4" x 4" glass slides. I don't see one of those in your pictures. It would be a device that fits in the slot between the lamp house and the projection lens, generally made of wood and with a sliding part where you fit the slides in. You could also check that it has its condenser lens - the large lens inside the casing, in front of the light bulb.

Are you thinking of using it?

Regards

David



PRACTICAL TIP

REPAIRING SLIP SLIDES

From Dick Moore
rmoore0438@aol.com

When repairing slip slides one of the most annoying problem, at least to me, has been replacing the pin/nail that holds the slipping glass in place, particularly finding a pin that is easily used.

After trying many approaches, I discovered that push pins provide an excellent answer. Merely cut the head off the pushpin and you are left with a sturdy pin that has an extremely sharp point which in most cases can be very easily (and carefully) inserted into the hard wood of the slides frame.

A strong wire cutters works nicely. You can select the length of the pin you want when you cut the head off. Make sure you grip the pointed end of the pin with pliers or a vise when you do the cutting otherwise it will fly off to some place in your room.



Magic Lantern Parts

From Sion Rofe
sionrofe@yahoo.co.uk

Good morning,

We have found part of a magic lantern, left over from my grandfathers estate, excuse the pun but are you able to shed any light as to what it actually is? Please see photos below.

Kind regards

Sion Rofe



From David Evans
Good Evening Sion

I thought I had responded to your enquiry but am unable to find it.

It is obviously a lens, and it could well have been used on a magic lantern. The makers, Bland and Long of London, were suppliers of all sorts of photographic equipment and published a catalogue of their material in 1854 with an update

in 1856. They included lenses in their list, but apparently no reference was made to magic lanterns. The fact that your lens has a shroud or hood around the front suggests that this may be a photographic portrait lens. Even so, portrait lenses certainly could be used for projection purposes, so your item could have been used for that.

Do you have any other parts of a lantern or camera that might shed further light on the matter?

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans



**30th International
Panorama Council
Conference
September 15 – 18,
2021, New Bedford,
Massachusetts, USA**

**Hosted by
New Bedford Whaling Museum
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

After careful consideration and close consultation with our partners at the New Bedford Whaling Museum (NBWM), we have determined that the 2021 IPC Conference will be need to be hosted virtually. The NBWM is not yet able to plan in-person events in the Museum, and there remains too much uncertainty around travels because of the pandemic to plan an in-person event for an international group such as ours.

As you may know, the 2020 conference was a success and we will build on that experience to craft an excellent 2021 conference.



The Magic Lantern Calendar

Exhibits

Currently open, *Brinton's Famous Moving Pictures*, Iowa University Library, Iowa City, IA. Includes magic lanterns and slides.

Through April 2021, *All You Need Is Light*, Massillon Museum, Massillon Ohio USA.

Equipment related to the photographic process including magic lantern and slides.

Through Dec 2026, *The Story of the Moving Image*, Australian Center for the Moving Image, Melbourne Australia. From magic lanterns to the latest in interactive technology

Beginning April 30, 2021, *Balzer Collection*, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer.

Meetings

April 17. 2021, *Spring Meeting*, Magic Lantern Society, online from Birmingham, England.

July 24. 2021, *Summer Meeting*, Magic Lantern Society, University of Exeter, Exeter, England

October 23. 2021, *Fall Meeting*, Magic Lantern Society, Swedenborg Hall, London, England.

April 29 – May 1, 2022, *Magic Lantern Convention*, Magic Lantern Society, Birmingham, England.

September 2022, *Magic Lantern Convention*, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Cleveland OH. Date TBA.

Online

Rare Images from Tuskegee Institute, Grand Rapids Public Museum, grpmcollections.org/Detail/collections/335. Other images include Abraham Lincoln, World War I, band instruments, baking and lumbering in Michigan.

Virtual Worlds in Early Cinema: Devices, Aesthetics and Audiences, Museu del Cinema, University of Girona, Oct 20-22, 2021. Call for papers is open until May 5; registration begins June 7.

Lower the Lights, Magic Lantern online exhibit at Cotsen Children's Library, Princeton University: <https://library.princeton.edu/libraries/cotsen/exhibitions/MagicLantern/index.html>

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or meeting to our calendar, drop a line to briandroggers@gmail.com.